This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A synthetically cyclised α- or ω- conotoxin peptide having an amide cyclised backbone such that the peptide has no free N- or C- terminus, said conotoxin peptide comprising either 4 cysteine residues which are bonded in pairs to form two disulfide bonds or 6 cysteine residues which are bonded in pairs to form three disulfide bonds, wherein said cyclised α-conotoxin peptide has α- conotoxin peptide activity and said cyclised ω-conotoxin peptide has ω- conotoxin peptide activity.

2. Canceled

3. (Currently amended) The cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 which ~~contains~~ comprises or consists of the sequence of amino acids present in a naturally occurring conotoxin peptide.

4. (Currently amended) The cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 3 wherein the naturally occurring conotoxin peptide comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in ~~is MVIA, GVIA, SVIB, SVIA, TVIA, MVIIC, GVIIA, GVIIB, PVIIA, GS, GI, IMI, PNIA, PNIB, SII, MII, GIIIA, GIIIB, GIIIC or PIIIA~~ SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 23, or SEQ ID NO: 24.

5. (Previously presented) The cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 having three disulphide bonds in the form of a cysteine knot.

6. (Currently amended) The cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 comprising an amino acid sequence of a linear conotoxin peptide and a peptide linker, wherein the N- and C- termini of the ~~linear peptide~~ amino acid sequence are linked via the peptide linker to form an amide cyclised peptide backbone.

7. (Currently amended) The cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 6 wherein the linear conotoxin peptide ~~moiety~~ is ~~obtained from~~ a naturally occurring conotoxin peptide and the cyclic conotoxin peptide retains the disulphide bond connectivity of the naturally occurring conotoxin peptide.

8. (Previously presented) The cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 6 wherein the peptide linker is from 2 to 15 amino acids in length.

9. (Currently amended) The cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 6 wherein the peptide linker is selected from the group consisting of:

TRNGLPG	~~SEQ ID NO. 1~~ SEQ ID NO: 1
TRNG	~~SEQ ID NO. 2~~ SEQ ID NO: 2
TRGGLPV	~~SEQ ID NO. 3~~ SEQ ID NO: 3, and,
TNG	~~SEQ ID NO. 4~~ SEQ ID NO: 4.

10. (Previously presented) The cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

CKGKGAKCSRLMYDCCTGSCRSGKCTRNGLPG SEQ. ID NO. 5

CKGKGAKCSRLMYDCCTGSCRSGKCTRNG SEQ. ID NO. 6

GLPV**CKGKGAKCSRLMYDCCTGSCRSGKC**TRG SEQ ID NO. 7

GCCSNPVCHLEHSNLCTNG SEQ ID NO. 8,

and

CCSNPVCHLEHSNLCTNG**G** SEQ ID NO. 9

11. (Previously presented) A process for preparing the cyclic conotoxin according to claim 1 comprising:

(i) synthesizing an extended linear conotoxin peptide on a solid phase support, said extended linear conotoxin peptide comprising a linear conotoxin peptide having a linker moiety attached to at least one end thereof,

(ii) cleaving said extended linear peptide from the support

(iii) cyclising said extended linear conotoxin peptide, and

(iv) oxidizing said cyclised peptide to form disulphide bonds.

12. (Previously presented) A process for preparing the cyclic conotoxin according to claim 1 comprising:

(i) synthesizing an extended linear conotoxin peptide on a solid phase support, said extended linear conotoxin peptide comprising a linear conotoxin peptide having a linker moiety attached to at least one end thereof,

(ii) cleaving said linear peptide from the solid support,

(iii) subjecting said extended peptide to conditions such that the peptide folds and forms the required disulphide bonds, and

(iv) cyclising the folded peptide.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of the cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

18. (Previously presented) The composition according to claim 17 which is a pharmaceutical composition.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A method for ~~The method of claim 15 wherein said amount is effective for~~ treating pain in a mammal comprising the step of administering to the mammal an amount of the cyclic conotoxin peptide of claim 1 effective to treat pain in the mammal.

22. (Currently amended) A method for ~~The method of claim 15 wherein said amount is effective for~~ treating stroke in a mammal comprising the step of administering to the mammal an amount of the cyclic conotoxin peptide of claim 1 effective to treat stroke in the mammal.

23. (Currently amended) A method for ~~The method of claim 15 wherein said amount is effective for~~ treating traumatic brain injury in a mammal comprising the step of administering to the mammal an amount of the cyclic conotoxin peptide of claim 1 effective to treat traumatic brain injury in the mammal.

24. (Currently amended) A method of blocking a voltage-sensitive calcium channel in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an ~~effective~~ amount of ~~a~~ the conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 effective to block the voltage-sensitive calcium channel ~~to a mammal~~.

25. (Currently amended) A method of blocking the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an ~~effective~~ amount of ~~a~~ the conotoxin peptide according to claim 1 effective to block the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor ~~to a mammal~~.

26. (Previously presented) A method of probing an ion channel receptor comprising contacting said ion channel receptor with the cyclic conotoxin peptide according to claim 1; and measuring a biological effect the cyclic conotoxin peptide has on the ion channel receptor.

27. (New) The cyclised conotoxin peptide of claim 1 wherein said conotoxin peptide is an ω- conotoxin and said cyclised conotoxin peptide has ω- conotoxin peptide activity.

28. (New) The cyclised conotoxin peptide of claim 1 wherein said conotoxin peptide is an α- conotoxin peptide and said cyclised conotoxin peptide has α- conotoxin peptide activity.